

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We support your efforts to ensure a fair and level playing field with our trading partners, and we agree with you that the manufacturing base, particularly the automotive and automotive supplier industry, is important to the economic security of the United States. However, we are concerned that the recently announced Section 232 national security investigation into imports of automobiles and automotive parts could have a significant negative impact on the economic security of our country.

Our nation's automotive industry is a critical driver of the American economy, historically contributing between 3.0-3.5% of our total GDP. It depends on a vast and complex network of suppliers to build vehicles, a large dealer network to sell them, and a substantial retail and aftermarket industry to supply repair and replacement parts – establishing facilities and creating jobs in every state. The industry has rebounded from the depths of the Great Recession, and in some parts of the industry, employment is actually higher than pre-recession levels. However, imposing tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions on automobiles and/or automotive parts threatens to undo that momentum.

We urge you to keep the following factors at the top of your mind as you conduct your investigation and develop recommendations:

- Quality, high-paying jobs are at stake in every state that span the industry: suppliers, dealers, and automakers; research and development, design, and manufacturing; installation and maintenance;
- Innovative, advanced technology work, including research and development and manufacturing of high-value, highly technical components, is conducted here in the U.S.;
- Close trading partners, many of which are our allies and valuable export markets for vehicles and parts manufactured in the U.S., are planning retaliation against our vulnerable industries;
- Suppliers, automakers, and dealers have planned considerable investments in innovation, expansion, workforce training, and job growth;
- The industry is facing price increases and supply challenges due to other trade actions;
- Price increases from tariffs, quotas, and other trade restrictions will ultimately be borne by American families in the form of higher vehicle prices, delayed purchases, and foregone vehicle maintenance, among others; and
- Unintended consequences will hurt other industries that rely on products that could be subject to trade restrictions, including used automobiles, heavy-duty vehicles, military vehicles, RVs, heavy machines and construction equipment, vintage and antique automobiles, and other vehicles.

We support the Department of Commerce as it seeks a level playing field for our manufacturers and workers in the global marketplace and penalizes bad actors. We believe, however, that the taxpayer dollars being used by the Commerce Department for this investigation would be better spent on other endeavors. We do not believe that imports of automobiles and automotive parts pose a national security threat. Rather, we believe the imposition of trade restrictions on these products could undermine our economic security.

Sincerely,



JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress



TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress



MIKE KELLY
Member of Congress



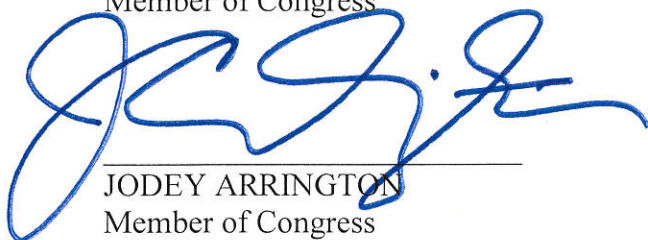
RON KIND
Member of Congress



PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress



MARK E. AMODEI
Member of Congress



JODEY ARRINGTON
Member of Congress



DON BACON
Member of Congress



JIM BANKS
Member of Congress




ANDY BARR
Member of Congress




AMI BERA
Member of Congress



JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress


EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress


ANDY BIGGS
Member of Congress


GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress


MIKE BISHOP
Member of Congress


SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress


MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress



ROD BLUM
Member of Congress



EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress


SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress


SUSAN W. BROOKS
Member of Congress


JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress


LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.
Member of Congress


TED BUDD
Member of Congress


G.K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress


BRADLEY BYRNE
Member of Congress


KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

Salud O. Carbal

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas

TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro

JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot

STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn

JAMES E. CLYBURN
Member of Congress

James Comer

JAMES COMER
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock

BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper

JIM COOPER
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa

J. LUIS CORREA
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer

KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist

CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

HENRY CUELLAR
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbeo

CARLOS CURBELO
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



SUZAN DELBENE
Member of Congress



JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
Member of Congress



JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress



NEAL P. DUNN, M.D.
Member of Congress



TOM EMMER
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress



RON ESTES
Member of Congress



JOHN J. FASO
Member of Congress



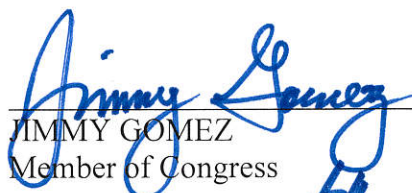
A. DREW FERGUSON, IV
Member of Congress



CHUCK FLEISCHMANN
Member of Congress




BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress



VICENTE GONZALEZ
Member of Congress



H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress



KAREN HANDEL
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress



JODY HICE
Member of Congress



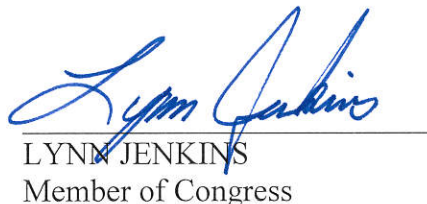
BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



RANDY HULTGREN
Member of Congress



WILL HURD
Member of Congress



LYNN JENKINS
Member of Congress



EVAN JENKINS
Member of Congress



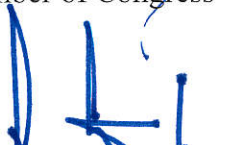
MIKE JOHNSON
Member of Congress



SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress



JIM JORDAN
Member of Congress



TRENT KELLY
Member of Congress



DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress




ADAM KINZINGER
Member of Congress



STEVE KNIGHT
Member of Congress


WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress


DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress


LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress


BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



AL LAWSON
Member of Congress


BILLY LONG
Member of Congress


BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress


MIA LOVE
Member of Congress


KENNY MARCHANT
Member of Congress


ROGER MARSHALL, M.D.
Member of Congress


THOMAS MASSIE
Member of Congress


TOM MCCLINTOCK
Member of Congress


CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress


MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress


GREGORY W. MEEKS
Member of Congress


GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

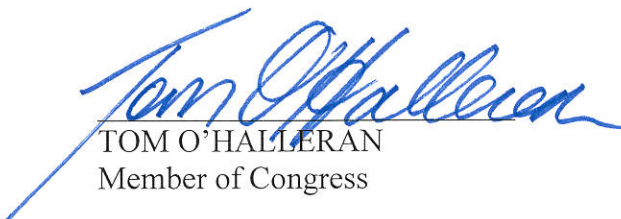

LUKE MESSER
Member of Congress


PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



JOHN MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress



ALEX X. MOONEY
Member of Congress


RALPH NORMAN
Member of Congress


TOM O'HALLERAN
Member of Congress


PETE OLSON
Member of Congress


BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress


JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress


ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress


SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress


BILL POSEY
Member of Congress


JOHN RATCLIFFE
Member of Congress


DAVE REICHERT
Member of Congress


KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress



DAVID P. ROE, M.D.
Member of Congress



HAL ROGERS
Member of Congress



PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress



DENNIS A. ROSS
Member of Congress



MARK SANFORD
Member of Congress



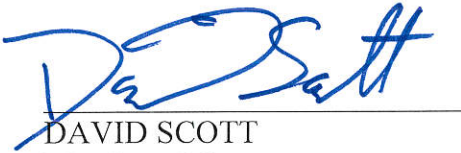
BRAD SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



KURT SCHRADER
Member of Congress



DAVID SCHWEIKERT
Member of Congress



DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress



AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress



PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress



JOHN SHIMKUS
Member of Congress



KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



ADRIAN SMITH
Member of Congress



LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress



STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Member of Congress



MAC THORNBERRY
Member of Congress



NORMA TORRES
Member of Congress



DAVID TROTT
Member of Congress



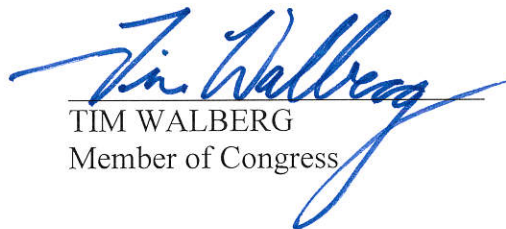
FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress



TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress



MARK WALKER
Member of Congress



MIMI WALTERS
Member of Congress



BRAD WENSTRUP
Member of Congress




ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress



STEVE WOMACK
Member of Congress



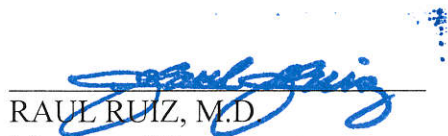
ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress


KEVIN YODER
Member of Congress


DAVID YOUNG
Member of Congress


HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress


TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress


RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress


WARREN DAVIDSON
Member of Congress


STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress


MIKE COFFMAN
Member of Congress


JOHN CULBERSON
Member of Congress